

Director Report  
April 2026

Simon Sinek is renowned for focusing on purpose-driven leadership, famously stating, "People don't buy what you do; they buy why you do it". His philosophy emphasizes empathy, trust, and long-term thinking, with key quotes including "Leadership is not about being in charge. It's about taking care of those in your charge"

Be the leader you wish you had. A great leader doesn't only inspire us to have confidence in what THEY can do. A great leader inspires us to have confidence in what WE can do. We can only truly be in charge when we are willing to let others take charge.

Simon Sinek

Time Off Requests:

Vacation:

April 24, Friday

May 14, 15, 18 - Thursday, Friday, Monday

June 26, Friday

July 10, 13, 14 - Friday, Monday, Tuesday

August 28, Friday

Sick - April 16 at 4:15 - I won't be back

Geranium Sale - is going fast and furious! Polly and Ryan are assisting me but it is still a bit of work but thank goodness only for a short period of time.

Building Community Based Summers (BCBS) - Liz and I will have our last class on 4/7/2026. It has been very interesting. We will report more once we have a chance to review with staff and ourselves. One standout is shifting from service to partnership. A key difference is that we're not working for the community—we're working with the community.

Vega - new Polaris interface for the public. The staff and I are learning about it and will be able to do a demo at the next meeting. This will be going live at the end of April due to the new Federal Law, WCAG. This was a quick roll out and FLLS is just now doing the training for member libraries.

Community Building

3/11/2026 - CFTC Community Impact committee meeting

Worked on and finished attached plan also see attached Food Programs at the Library Plan

LRP

Website - still waiting on Drew - in a way this is good with the new Federal Accessibility Law. We can add some of those required now. Along with a widget like TCPL's - <https://www.tcpl.org/> - click on bottom left, blue wheelchair.

Staff

Living Wage Commitment - more exciting news to come....I am still committed to getting the library on the path to paying our staff a wage they can live with.

### Waiting on

--Sign inside Foyer - Joan Donovan and her husband are repairing (Sue Haynes asked her) - while Joan and Jeremiah were taking down the glass, they noticed how loose the screws so will replace those too.  
--Website - Board approved on 10/9/2025 and we are in-process of migrating our website to InMotion. Drew is working on the new website. Will have a draft for you all to review shortly.

### Webinars & Sessions & Activities:

#### **Sara**

3/12/2026 - FLLS Directors meeting via Zoom  
3/12/2026 - LE in the Library committee meeting  
3/13/2026 - Director's Handbook Book Club  
3/19/2026 - FLLS IDEA/DEI meeting via Zoom  
3/23/2026 - FLLS Focus Group meeting  
3/23/2026 - FLLS Overdrive Selectors meeting via Zoom  
3/25/2026 - Digital Accessibility & Your Library: Practical First Steps  
4/02/2026 - FLLS Polaris Vega Training/Demo - this was recorded and all staff will have access to it.  
Another training on Friday, April 10 that Ryan and I will attend

#### **Liz**

3/19/2026 - LE in the Library working group (is this a webinar?)  
3/25/2026 - Digital Accessibility for Everyone: An Overview of Accessibility Tools

#### **Ryan**

3/25/2026 - Digital Accessibility & Your Library: Practical First Steps

### Programming:

-Fall Prevention Lunch & Learn with Andrea Davis from Tompkins Office for the Aging  
-Johnson Museum with Mask Making  
-AI Classes on the fourth Saturday of each month  
-Read2Grow  
-T(w)een Thing  
-DnD  
-Book Club  
-Knitting & Crochet Casual with Megan - starting on January 28.  
-Friday Night Matinee for Families  
-Story Time  
-Legos Night

### Summer Reading:

- a. Summer Reading Kickoff - July 1
  - PowerHouse w/ Ryan Lundsted 12-5
  - PRI - Rob Ross 12-12:45
  - Maria 12:30-4:30
  - Lilypad 1-2
  - Story Crafters 2-3
  - SPLAT Splatter Cave - 3-5 - Outside
- b. Library Dino Boogie with Tom Knight - July 16 at 6 PM
- c. Dino Day - July 30
  - Maria 12:30-4:30

- Lilypad 1-2
  - Dan the Snakeman - 3-5
  - SPLAT Marbled Dinosaur Eggs -12-2 - Outside
- d. Summer Reading Finale - August 22
- Maria 12:30-4:30
  - TaleWise/Science Heroes - 12:30-1:30
  - Physic Bus - 11:30-3:30
  - SPLAT Dino Spin Art - 12-2 - Outside
- e. Giveaway books at the bank's hotdog roast
- f. Summer Story Time at the Park

Community Use of Facility:

Keith Davenport with Youth Commission  
 Scouts  
 Alumni Class of 1976  
 Home Schooling Classes  
 Holiday Festival Planning with Karen Lane

Grants

*Awarded:*

Friends of the TCPL - \$1,200  
 FLLS Collection - \$2,000  
 NYS Bullet Aid, Lea Webb - \$3,000  
 Libraries Transforming Communities Grant - long shot - \$10,000  
 Rosen Tween Thing - \$12,984  
 Rosen SR Dino - \$2,744  
 CAP Grants for Arts Program (GAP) - \$4,000

**Total = \$35,928**

*Applied:*

*Waiting for approval:*

*Upcoming:*

FLLS OMG Mini Grant - usually due in March - \$3,000  
 FLLS Literacy Grant - usually due early April - \$1,000

*Possible:*

NY Forward Small Grant through the Village

*Missed out on:*

Women Building Community Grant - \$5,000  
 Amplify Grant - \$5,000

Board Action Item:

Finance Committee - 990 Due in May 2026

In 2025, we hosted 503 events with 8,634 attendees/participants - WOW

**Circulation Statistics: Number of Transactions Comparison:**

July 1 2025 to March 31 2026 = 17,094 (Libby - 3,479 - Hoopla - 1,870) Total = 22,443  
 July 1 2024 to March 31 2025 = 19,119 (Libby - 2,734 - Hoopla - 1,508) Total = 23,361

## Door Count Comparison:

2026	2025	2024
<b>Total =</b>	<b>Total = 22,840</b>	<b>Total = 22,248</b>
December =	December = 1,633	December = 1,711
November =	November = 1,451	November = 2,023
October =	October = 2,097	October = 1,884
September =	September = 1,579	September = 1,610
August =	August = 1,896	August = 2,118
July =	July = 1,817	July = 1,927
June =	June = 2,017	June = 2,023
May =	May = 2,015	May = 1,691
April =	April = 2,250	April = 1,834
March = 1,780	March = 2,296	March = 1,814
February = 1,562	February = 1,901	February = 1,735
January = 1,564	January = 1,888	January = 1,878

“The principles of kindness, integrity, fairness, and perseverance consistently guide my work. These values ground my commitment to myself, my staff, the library, and our community. My continual aim is to serve with excellence and to the fullest of my ability.” SLK

### Rules for ED from BoT (to hold me accountable)

1. Time Management
  - a. No overtime or working outside scheduled hours or flex time without approval
  - b. No more being late (only once or twice in a year)
2. Prioritization - be mindful of mission creep, make deadlines and do not become defensive. Give all programming equal attention. Note that I submitted a grant for \$20,000 for the homebound program before year end.
3. Communication - provide timely information to BoT
4. Support the BoT's goals
5. Community Building - I have good connections with many if not most of the churches, many of the businesses including the Groton Community Business Association, and other nonprofit organizations like the Historical Association. Liz is working on connecting with Center Court but we are limited by how much Center Court wants.

### KEY

FLLS = Finger Lakes Library System

CFTC = Community Foundation of Tompkins County

CAP = Community Arts Partnership

LEAP = Library Elementary Assistance Program

BuLit = Building Literacy

TCPL = Tompkins County Public Library

DnD or D&D = Dungeons and Dragons

KFM = Kids Farmers Market (Food Bank of the Southern Tier)

TC = Tompkins County

FBST = Food Bank of Southern Tier

BRB = Bright Red Bookshelf

SCRLC = South Central Regional Library Council

SR = Summer Reading

FDN = Friendship Donation Network

LoTs = Library of Things

HSC = Human Service Coalition

LLSA = Local Library Services Aid

FALCON = Finger Lakes Automated Library Consortium